

2004 – 2005 NEW APPLICANT FACT SHEET

The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program (Scholarship) is a federally funded program designed to promote student excellence and achievement. These scholarships are awarded solely on the basis of academic merit to recognize students who show promise of continued academic excellence. The Scholarship is administered by the California Student Aid Commission (Commission). Selected students must enroll in and attend a United States (U.S.) institution of higher education full time beginning in the fall term of the 2004-2005 academic year. The scholarship award for 2004-2005 will be \$1500 and may be renewed for up to four years. The Robert C Byrd Honors Scholarship Program is supported entirely by federal funding and is subject to federal budget appropriations. Federal funding may affect this award and/or renewals, if authorization is reduced or not approved for the fiscal year.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To meet eligibility requirements, federal law requires that an applicant must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen.
Note: If the applicant is an eligible non-citizen, documentation from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service must accompany the application.
- Be a legal resident of California.
- Graduate from a public or private secondary school between 7-1-2003 and 6-30-2004 or receive the equivalent of a certificate of graduation as recognized by the California State Department of Education between 7-1-2003 and 4-1-2004.
- Enroll in and attend a U.S. postsecondary public or private institution on a full-time basis during the fall term of the 2004-2005 academic year.
- Be considered a freshman beginning in the fall term of the 2004-2005 academic year.
- Have registered with the Selective Service System, unless the postsecondary institution certifies that the applicant is not required to register with Selective Service.
- Submit a Certification Form ED 80-0016, attesting to the fact that they are not delinquent or in default on a federal grant or educational loan with the application.

HOW TO APPLY

Eligible high school students currently enrolled in a California high school must apply through their designated high school Scholarship coordinator.

NOTE: Applicants currently enrolled in high school must adhere to the application deadlines set by their high school campus for the Scholarship since all nomination packages must be submitted by the designated high school coordinator.

Eligible students who meet the above requirements **and who are not currently** attending a California high school should obtain and submit a completed application package directly to the Commission, Attn: Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 419029, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9029.

NOMINATION PROCESS AND DEADLINE

Process: Each California public or private secondary education institution **may nominate up to two (2) applicants**. All high schools wishing to nominate students for this Scholarship must submit completed application materials for each nominee. A complete application package must include:

- Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program Nomination Form for California and the GPA/Test Score Verification Form
- Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program Application
- Certification Form ED 80-0016

Deadline: All completed application materials must be postmarked by **MAY 4, 2004** and sent to the Commission at P.O. Box 419029, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9029.

NOTE: Late or incomplete applications may not be considered in the ranking process.

SELECTION AND AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Commission will review all nominations and rank eligible applicants by grade point average (using Scholastic Aptitude Test and/or American College Test scores as tie breakers). The Commission will announce selected students for the Scholarship before the end of the school year, provided federal funds are authorized. Both the institution and the students will receive notification of their award status.

Selected students will receive their award, each academic term, through their postsecondary institution's financial aid office. Receipt of this scholarship may affect other financial aid awards.

For additional information, please contact the Commission's Specialized Programs Unit at (888) 224-7268 #3.